

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

## **SH2335077**

**AUDIO/VIDEO TRACKING SHEET**

**OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING FORM**

**INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY**

**TRANSCRIBED INTERVIEWS**

Deputy Dru Strong  
Deputy Gregory Rodriguez  
Witness [REDACTED]  
Witness [REDACTED]

### **EXHIBITS**

Exhibit A: Homicide Bureau casebook  
Exhibit B: District Attorney's Office clearance letter  
Exhibit C: Consolidated Criminal History for Suspect Brown  
Exhibit D: Crime scene photographs and audio from Homicide investigation  
Exhibit E: Radio traffic from Sheriff's Communication Center  
Exhibit F: Printed photograph of Suspect Brown's weapon  
Exhibit G: Photographs, maps, and sketches shown to Deputy Strong  
Exhibit H: Photographs, maps, and sketches shown to Deputy Rodriguez  
Exhibit I: Photographs taken during Witness [REDACTED] interview by Internal Affairs Bureau  
Exhibit J: Autopsy photographs

### **MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS**

Admonitions  
Homicide Bureau memorandum  
Training records

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING FORM**

# Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

## Officer Involved Shooting

Page 1 of 4

Report Date: <b>05/23/13</b>		Bureau/Station/Facility: <b>South Patrol Division / Compton Station</b>		Admin. Invest? <input type="checkbox"/> Hit? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Incident Information</b>					
URN: <b>013-06654-2826-013</b>		Date: <b>05/23/13</b>		Time: <b>1928</b>	
City or Station: <b>Compton</b>		Nature of Incident: <b>Deputies Strong and Rodriguez contacted a driver of a vehicle they believed was related to a shots fired call. When confronted by deputies the suspect pointed a handgun at the the deputies.</b>			
Location: <b>East Palmer Street, Compton</b>					
Location Type (check one or more): <input type="checkbox"/> Backyard <input type="checkbox"/> Beach <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> Freeway <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Parking Lot <input type="checkbox"/> Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Street Other: <b>Side yard</b>		Lighting (check only one): <input type="checkbox"/> Darkness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daylight <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Street Lights  Weather (circle only one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clear <input type="checkbox"/> Cloudy <input type="checkbox"/> Fog <input type="checkbox"/> Rain  Distance: <b>10 feet</b>		Incident Type (check one or more): <input type="checkbox"/> Accidental <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Armed Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fleeing Suspect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foot Pursuit <input type="checkbox"/> Gun Take Away <input type="checkbox"/> Moving Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> Sniper/Ambush <input type="checkbox"/> Startle <input type="checkbox"/> Struggle Involved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic Stop <input type="checkbox"/> Unarmed Person <input type="checkbox"/> Unintentional <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle Pursuit <input type="checkbox"/> Warrant Service <input type="checkbox"/> Warning Shot Other:	
Total # of Shots Fired by Deputy <b>4</b>		Total # of Shots Fired by Suspect <b>0</b>		Initiated by (check only one): <input type="checkbox"/> Arrest Warrant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Call <input type="checkbox"/> Observation <input type="checkbox"/> One Person Unit <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Search Warrant <input type="checkbox"/> Two Person Unit  Prior Activity (check only one): <input type="checkbox"/> Detective <input type="checkbox"/> Inmate Transport <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Routine Patrol  Aero Unit? <input type="checkbox"/> Canine Unit? <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Employee Witnesses</b>					
Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	ShiftTime (check only one):	ShiftType (check only one):
	<b>Hernandez</b>	<b>Etinay</b>	<b>NMN</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM <input type="checkbox"/> Day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Overtime <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty
Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	ShiftTime (check only one):	ShiftType (check only one):
				<input type="checkbox"/> EM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM <input type="checkbox"/> Day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Overtime <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty
Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	ShiftTime (check only one):	ShiftType (check only one):
	<b>Garcia-Toscano</b>	<b>Ricardo</b>	<b>NMN</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM <input type="checkbox"/> Day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Overtime <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty
<b>Non-Employee Witnesses</b>					
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		City	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		City	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		City	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph
<b>Supervisors</b>					
Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	(check one or more):	
	<b>Johnson</b>	<b>Eric</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On Duty <input type="checkbox"/> Witness to shooting <input type="checkbox"/> Present during shooting <input type="checkbox"/> Involved in shooting	
Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	(check one or more):	
	<b>Ebbinga</b>	<b>Kurtis</b>	<b>H</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On Duty <input type="checkbox"/> Witness to shooting <input type="checkbox"/> Present during shooting <input type="checkbox"/> Involved in shooting	
<b>Watch Sergeant</b>					
Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.		
<b>Watch Commander</b>					
Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.		
	<b>Stone</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>H</b>		

<b>PSTD Use Only</b>	
SH #	<b>SH2335077</b>



# Officer Involved Shooting Involved Employee Information

URN: \_\_\_\_\_

Page 3 of 4

Involved Employee										
<b>E 1</b>	Employee #		Last Name			First Name		M.I.		
			Strong			Dru		M		
	Sex: <b>M</b>	Race: <b>W</b>	Rank: <b>Deputy Sheriff</b>		Unit Assignment: <b>Compton</b>		Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): <b>293B</b>			
	ShiftTime (circle only one): <input type="checkbox"/> EM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM <input type="checkbox"/> Day		ShiftType (circle only one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Overtime <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty		Intoxication/Drug Usage? <input type="checkbox"/>		Substance Used:			
	Hospital Admission? <input type="checkbox"/>		Hospital Name:		Coroner Case? <input type="checkbox"/>		Coroner Case #		Interviewed? <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: <b>8</b>		Duty Time (hrs):		Clothing (circle only one): <input type="checkbox"/> Plain Clothes no Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Plain Clothes w/ Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Raid Jacket no Vest <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raid Jacket w/ Vest		Other Factors:			
	Age: <b>510</b>	Height: <b>170</b>								
	Range Qualification Date:		PPC Qualification Date:		Laser Training Date:					
	Certified with Weapon Used?		Patrol Certification?		Certification Unit:		Prior Shootings?		Number of Prior Shootings:	Directed Force:
	Weapons Fired Brand: <b>Beretta 92F</b>		Caliber: <b>9mm</b>	# Shots: <b>3</b>	Weapons Fired Brand: <b>Beretta</b>		Caliber: <b>9MM</b>	# Shots: <b>3</b>		
Field Training Officer Emp #		Last Name			First Name		M.I.			
Field Training Officer Emp #		Last Name			First Name		M.I.			

<b>E 2</b>	Employee #		Last Name			First Name		M.I.		
			Rodriguez			Gregory				
	Sex: <b>M</b>	Race: <b>H</b>	Rank: <b>Deputy Sheriff</b>		Unit Assignment: <b>Compton</b>		Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): <b>283B</b>			
	ShiftTime (circle only one): <input type="checkbox"/> EM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM <input type="checkbox"/> Day		ShiftType (circle only one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Overtime <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty		Intoxication/Drug Usage? <input type="checkbox"/>		Substance Used:			
	Hospital Admission? <input type="checkbox"/>		Hospital Name:		Coroner Case? <input type="checkbox"/>		Coroner Case #		Interviewed? <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: <b>6</b>		Duty Time (hrs):		Clothing (circle only one): <input type="checkbox"/> Plain Clothes no Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Plain Clothes w/ Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Raid Jacket no Vest <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raid Jacket w/ Vest		Other Factors:			
	Age: <b>603</b>	Height: <b>300</b>								
	Range Qualification Date:		PPC Qualification Date:		Laser Training Date:					
	Certified with Weapon Used?		Patrol Certification?		Certification Unit:		Prior Shootings?		Number of Prior Shootings:	Directed Force:
	Weapons Fired Brand: <b>Beretta 92F</b>		Caliber: <b>9mm</b>	# Shots: <b>1</b>	Weapons Fired Brand: <b>Beretta</b>		Caliber: <b>9MM</b>	# Shots: <b>1</b>		
Field Training Officer Emp #		Last Name			First Name		M.I.			
Field Training Officer Emp #		Last Name			First Name		M.I.			

<b>E</b>	Employee #		Last Name			First Name		M.I.		
	Sex:	Race:	Rank:		Unit Assignment:		Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):			
	ShiftTime (circle only one): <input type="checkbox"/> EM <input type="checkbox"/> PM <input type="checkbox"/> Day		ShiftType (circle only one): <input type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Overtime <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty		Intoxication/Drug Usage? <input type="checkbox"/>		Substance Used:			
	Hospital Admission? <input type="checkbox"/>		Hospital Name:		Coroner Case? <input type="checkbox"/>		Coroner Case #		Interviewed? <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Hrs of sleep prior to shooting:		Duty Time (hrs):		Clothing (circle only one): <input type="checkbox"/> Plain Clothes no Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Plain Clothes w/ Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Raid Jacket no Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Raid Jacket w/ Vest		Other Factors:			
	Age:	Height:	Weight:							
	Range Qualification Date:		PPC Qualification Date:		Laser Training Date:					
	Certified with Weapon Used? <input type="checkbox"/>		Patrol Certification? <input type="checkbox"/>		Certification Unit:		Prior Shootings? <input type="checkbox"/>		Number of Prior Shootings:	Directed Force: <input type="checkbox"/>
	Weapons Fired Brand:		Caliber:	# Shots:	Weapons Fired Brand:		Caliber:	# Shots:		
Field Training Officer Emp #		Last Name			First Name		M.I.			
Field Training Officer Emp #		Last Name			First Name		M.I.			

# Officer Involved Shooting Suspect Information

URN: \_\_\_\_\_

Page 4 of 4

Suspect Information							
S 1	Last Name	Brown		First Name	Rashawn	M.I.	M
	AKA Last Name			First Name		M.I.	
	Sex: M	Race: B	Street Address	City	State & Zip Code		
	Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:		Driver's License #:		
	Age: D.O.B.	11/02/85	Height: 602	Weight: 150	FBI #	CII #	
	Booking #	Primary Charge:		Secondary Charge:			
	Coroner Case? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coroner Case # 2013-03735		Intoxication/Drug Usage? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Substance Used: Cocaine		
	Armed? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Apprehended? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Mental Illness? <input type="checkbox"/>	Criminal History? <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Vehicle Make		Model:		Year:		
	Pontiac		Grand Am		2000		
S	Last Name			First Name		M.I.	
	AKA Last Name			First Name		M.I.	
	Sex:	Race:	Street Address:	City	State & Zip Code:		
	Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:		Driver's License #:		
	Age: D.O.B.	Height:	Weight:	FBI #	CII #		
	Booking #	Primary Charge:		Secondary Charge:			
	Coroner Case? <input type="checkbox"/>	Coroner Case #		Intoxication/Drug Usage? <input type="checkbox"/>	Substance Used:		
	Armed? <input type="checkbox"/>	Apprehended? <input type="checkbox"/>		Mental Illness? <input type="checkbox"/>	Criminal History? <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Vehicle Make		Model:		Year:		
S	Last Name			First Name		M.I.	
	AKA Last Name			First Name		M.I.	
	Sex:	Race:	Street Address:	City	State & Zip Code:		
	Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:		Driver's License #:		
	Age: D.O.B.	Height:	Weight:	FBI #	CII #		
	Booking #	Primary Charge:		Secondary Charge:			
	Coroner Case? <input type="checkbox"/>	Coroner Case #		Intoxication/Drug Usage? <input type="checkbox"/>	Substance Used:		
	Armed? <input type="checkbox"/>	Apprehended? <input type="checkbox"/>		Mental Illness? <input type="checkbox"/>	Criminal History? <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Vehicle Make		Model:		Year:		
S	Last Name			First Name		M.I.	
	AKA Last Name			First Name		M.I.	
	Sex:	Race:	Street Address:	City	State & Zip Code:		
	Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:		Driver's License #:		
	Age: D.O.B.	Height:	Weight:	FBI #	CII #		
	Booking #	Primary Charge:		Secondary Charge:			
	Coroner Case? <input type="checkbox"/>	Coroner Case #		Intoxication/Drug Usage? <input type="checkbox"/>	Substance Used:		
	Armed? <input type="checkbox"/>	Apprehended? <input type="checkbox"/>		Mental Illness? <input type="checkbox"/>	Criminal History? <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Vehicle Make		Model:		Year:		

## **INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY**



# INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

## INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

**DEPUTY INVOLVED SHOOTING: HIT**

**CASE NUMBER:** SH2335077

**FILE NUMBER:** 013-06654-2826-013

**STATION/UNIT/BUREAU:** Central Patrol Division/Compton Station

**DATE/TIME/DAY:** May 23, 2013, 1926 hours, Thursday

**LOCATION:** [REDACTED] East Palmer Street, Compton, CA

### SYNOPSIS:

Deputy Dru Strong, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], Deputy Gregory Rodriguez, [REDACTED] were assigned to Compton Station when a call regarding shots fired in the area of Bradfield Avenue and San Luis Street was broadcast by the Sheriff's Communication Center (see Incident #CPT13143-0218, **Exhibit A, pages 51-54**). They were about one half mile southeast of the location of the call and self-assigned their unit to assist. Deputy Strong was driving and Deputy Rodriguez was the bookman.

Deputies Strong and Rodriguez drove west on Compton Boulevard and turned north on Bradfield Avenue. A black Pontiac, driven by Suspect Rashawn Brown, turned north on Bradfield Avenue from San Luis Street (one block north of them) simultaneous to their turn onto Bradfield Avenue. They noted the vehicle had tinted windows and believed it might be the source of the gunshots.

Deputy Strong accelerated to close the distance with the Suspect Brown, who was travelling at about twenty-five miles per hour. The deputies followed Suspect Brown for three to five seconds before he turned west on Palmer Street. They were approximately one half block behind Suspect Brown when he turned. Suspect Brown failed to activate the turn signal prior to making the left turn and accelerated as he exited the turn. Suspect Brown drove to the end of the cul-de-sac and stopped his vehicle. Deputy Strong activated the emergency lights on the patrol car as he stopped about four feet behind Suspect Brown's vehicle. He activated the lights to ensure Suspect Brown understood his intent to detain him.

# INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

## INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

Suspect Brown stopped in the middle of the street and immediately exited the vehicle. The deputies saw Suspect Brown grab the waistband portion of his pants. They did not see a firearm at this juncture, but believed he may be armed with a firearm due to his actions and the nature of the call. Both deputies drew their service weapons and ordered Suspect Brown to stop. Suspect Brown did not comply with these commands.

Suspect Brown ran south to the east side of the residence at [REDACTED] East Palmer Street, Compton, CA. Deputies Strong and Rodriguez chased Suspect Brown as he ran between the east side of the house and a wrought iron fence which separated the property from the residence to the east. Deputy Strong broadcast a request for the Sheriff's Communication Center to put him on the patch as he ran. The deputies intended to chase Suspect Brown until he reached the fence, which was seventy-eight feet from Suspect Brown's vehicle. They planned to contain the area if he climbed the fence. The path between the house and the fence was approximately four feet wide.

Suspect Brown attempted to scale a six foot tall chain link gate at the south end of the walkway as Deputies Strong and Rodriguez arrived at the north end of the pathway between the house and fence. Deputy Strong was to the east, near the wrought iron fence, and Deputy Rodriguez was near the side of the residence. Deputy Strong was slightly in front of Deputy Rodriguez, as the narrow pathway did not allow them to stand side by side.

Suspect Brown was unsuccessful in his attempt to scale the fence and fell back to the north. He quickly turned toward the deputies as he landed and pointed a firearm at them with his right hand. Both deputies feared Suspect Brown was going to shoot them. Deputy Strong fired three rounds from his service weapon, and Deputy Rodriguez fired one round. Suspect Brown fell to his knees and dropped the firearm on the ground.

Deputy Rodriguez ordered Suspect Brown to lay on the ground while Deputy Strong requested assistance via his radio. Suspect Brown laid on the ground with his feet to the north toward the deputies, and his head near the gate. The firearm remained near his right hand. Suspect Brown was held at gunpoint pending the arrival of assisting units. He remained cooperative.

Deputy Strong recovered Suspect Brown's firearm and placed it in the trunk of his patrol car after Deputies [REDACTED] and Etinay Hernandez, [REDACTED] arrived. He was concerned about its location near Suspect Brown's hand and put it in his trunk to

# INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

## INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

secure it. Deputy Ricardo Garcia Toscano [REDACTED] arrived and handcuffed Suspect Brown.

Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedics arrived to provide medical treatment to Suspect Brown. He was transported via ambulance to Saint Francis Medical Center where he was pronounced dead during surgery.

Homicide Sergeant Brian Schoonmaker and Detective Timothy O'Quinn responded to conduct the criminal investigation. See a copy of the Homicide casebook labeled **Exhibit A**. IAB Lieutenant Todd Weber and Sergeants Slade Carrizosa and John Trani responded to conduct an administrative investigation.

The case was submitted to the Justice System Integrity Division of the District Attorney's Office for review. See copy of Letter of Opinion labeled **Exhibit B**.

### INVOLVED PERSONNEL:

**Gregory Rodriguez, Deputy,** [REDACTED] MH/[REDACTED], 6'3", 295lbs, [REDACTED]  
Central Patrol Division/Compton Station - 283B

Date of Employment: 04/12/2006  
Date Assigned to Patrol: [REDACTED]  
Date Completed Patrol Training: [REDACTED]  
Prior Shooting Incidents: [REDACTED]  
Prior Founded Force Incidents: [REDACTED]

**Dru Strong, Deputy,** [REDACTED] MW/[REDACTED], 5'10", 170lbs, [REDACTED]  
Central Patrol Division/Compton Station - 283B

Date of Employment: 01/05/2005  
Date Assigned to Patrol: [REDACTED]  
Date Completed Patrol Training: [REDACTED]  
Prior Shooting Incidents: [REDACTED]  
Prior Founded Force Incidents: [REDACTED]

# INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

## INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

### SUSPECT:

**Rashawn Marquis Brown**, MB/27, DOB 11/05/1985, 6'2", 150lbs

Suspect Brown received gunshot wounds to his chest, abdomen, groin, and left hand. He was transported via ambulance to Saint Francis Medical Center where he was pronounced dead during surgery by Doctor Reginald Jones. See Coroner's report, case #2013-03735, attached as **Exhibit A**, pages 99-123. A compact disc containing autopsy photographs is attached as **Exhibit J**.

A review of Suspect Brown's Consolidated Criminal History revealed [REDACTED]

**IAB NOTE:** See **Exhibit C** for a complete copy of Suspect Brown's Consolidated Criminal History.

### DEPARTMENT WITNESSES:

[REDACTED] Deputy, [REDACTED]  
Central Patrol Division/Compton Station – 287E

**Etinay Hernandez**, Deputy, [REDACTED]  
Central Patrol Division/Compton Station – 283E

**Ricardo Garcia-Toscano**, Deputy, [REDACTED]  
Central Patrol Division/Compton Station – 283T2

### CIVILIAN WITNESS:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

# INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

## INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY



### PHYSICAL EVIDENCE:

Homicide Bureau Sergeant Joseph Ramirez, [REDACTED], and Detective Raymond Lugo, [REDACTED] conducted an investigation of the scene. See copy of supplemental report documenting their investigation contained as **Exhibit A, pages 34-38**. Crime Lab personnel assisted with the collection of evidence. They also prepared sketches and photographed the scene. See reports **Exhibit A, pages 39-47**, and sketches **Exhibit A, pages 48-49**.

**IAB Note:** A compact disc which contains a copy of the photographs taken by the Crime Lab personnel and audio recordings from the Homicide Bureau interviews is attached as **Exhibit D**.

### RADIO TRAFFIC:

A copy of the radio traffic was obtained from the Sheriff's Communication Center, see two compact discs labeled **Exhibit E**. The following was broadcast via [REDACTED]

19:25:00 Sheriff's Communication Center broadcast the call.  
19:25:54 Deputy Rodriguez broadcast they were [REDACTED]  
19:26:39 Deputy Strong broadcast [REDACTED]  
19:26:45 Deputy Strong broadcast a deputy involved shooting had occurred.

### WEAPON USED BY DEPUTY:

**Deputy Gregory Rodriguez**

Service Weapon Type:

9MM Beretta

Rounds Fired:

1

Ammunition Used:

WIN 9MM Luger

Date Last Qualified:



# INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

## INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

**IAB NOTE:** Deputy Rodriguez' service weapon and remaining fifteen live rounds of ammunition were submitted to the Crime Lab under receipt #K392886. There were four expended 9MM casings recovered at the scene. The Crime Lab tested the firearm for functionality, see **Exhibit A, pages 43-44**, for a copy of their report.

**Deputy Dru Strong**

Service Weapon Type:	9MM Beretta
Rounds Fired:	3
Ammunition used:	WIN 9MM Luger
Date Last Qualified:	- - - - -

**IAB Note:** Deputy Strong's service weapon and remaining thirteen live rounds of ammunition were submitted to the Crime Lab under receipt #K392887

### WEAPON USED BY SUSPECT:

Suspect Brown used a Highpoint Firearms, Model CF380, .380 caliber, semi-automatic handgun. This weapon was recovered with no ammunition.

**IAB Note:** Photographs of Suspect Brown's weapon were taken by Crime Lab personnel. See compact disc labeled **Exhibit D**. A printed copy of a photograph depicting Suspect Brown's weapon is attached as **Exhibit F**.

### PROPERTY DAMAGE:

None

### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR/CHARGES FILED:

Investigators: Sergeant Brian Schoonmaker and Detective Timothy O'Quinn

Charges Filed: None – Suspect deceased.

# INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

## INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

### LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS:

The shooting occurred during daylight hours. The weather was clear.

### INVOLVED EMPLOYEE STATEMENT:

**Deputy Dru Strong**, [REDACTED] was interviewed by Homicide Sergeant Schoonmaker and Detective O'Quinn on May 24, 2013. The interviews were audio recorded and transcribed as **Jobs #42336 and 42337**. See Transcriptions section for a verbatim copy of the interviews. See **Exhibit A, pages 29 and 30** for a summary of the interviews.

Deputy Strong was interviewed by IAB Sergeant Watters and Lieutenant Carter on November 13, 2014. This interview was audio recorded and transcribed as **Jobs #43555 and 43556**. See Transcriptions section for a verbatim copy of the interview.

Deputy Strong was working a two-man patrol assignment with his [REDACTED] Deputy Rodriguez, when he heard the Sheriff's Communication Center broadcast a call regarding shots fired in the area of San Luis Street and Bradfield Avenue. They were about one half mile southeast of the location and self-assigned their unit to assist on the call.

Deputy Strong drove west on Compton Boulevard and turned north on Bradfield Avenue. He saw Suspect Brown's Pontiac turn from west on San Luis Street to North on Bradfield Avenue as he made the turn. Deputy Strong noted Suspect Brown's vehicle had tinted windows and was the only vehicle he saw in the area. He felt it might be related to the call and accelerated to close the gap between the vehicles. Suspect Brown was travelling at about twenty-five miles per hour on Bradfield Avenue. Approximately three to five seconds after he turned onto Bradfield Avenue, Deputy Strong was about one-half block behind Suspect Brown. Deputy Strong described the blocks as very short.

Suspect Brown made a left turn to west on Palmer Street without using his turn signal. He turned quickly but was not driving at an excessive speed or taking any obvious evasive action. Deputy Strong wasn't sure if Suspect Brown was aware of the patrol car behind him. Deputy Strong knew Palmer Street was a dead end.

Deputy Strong followed Suspect Brown west on Palmer Street. Suspect Brown stopped in the middle of the street at the dead end and immediately exited the vehicle. Deputy

# INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

## INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

Strong activated his emergency lights as he came to a stop behind Suspect Brown to make clear his intent to detain him.

Suspect Brown reached for his waistband as he exited the vehicle and ran south. Deputy Strong did not see a firearm but felt Suspect Brown may be armed based on his actions. Deputy Strong pointed his duty weapon at Suspect Brown and ordered him to stop running. Suspect Brown did not respond to the command.

Suspect Brown ran to the east side of [REDACTED] East Palmer Street into a walkway between the east side of the house and a wrought iron fence which separates the property from the residence to the east. Deputies Strong and Rodriguez followed. Deputy Strong broadcast a request for the [REDACTED] to broadcast he was in foot pursuit, as he ran. Deputy Strong intended to detain Suspect Brown if he stopped or contain the area if he scaled a fence. He did not remember a response from Sheriff's Communication Center.

Deputies Strong and Rodriguez reached the pathway between the house and fence as Suspect Brown tried to scale the chain link gate at the south end. The path was too narrow for the deputies to stand side by side. They continued south with Deputy Strong to the east near the wrought iron fence, slightly in front of Deputy Rodriguez.

Suspect Brown's attempt to scale the gate was unsuccessful. He fell back to his feet on the north side of the gate with the deputies. He faced the deputies and pointed a firearm at them. Deputy Strong feared he would be shot and fired three rounds. Deputy Strong estimated the shooting occurred approximately two to three seconds after he began the foot pursuit.

Suspect Brown fell to the ground with his head facing to the south and legs toward the deputies. The gun was on the ground near Suspect Brown's right hand. Deputies Strong and Rodriguez detained Suspect Brown at gunpoint while Deputy Strong broadcast he had been in a shooting. Deputy Strong recovered Suspect Brown's firearm after Deputy [REDACTED] and his [REDACTED] arrived to assist. He secured the firearm in the trunk of his patrol car.

**IAB Note:** Deputy Strong was shown a copy of two photographs of the residence at [REDACTED] East Palmer Street, two maps, and a crime scene sketch during his interview. See **Exhibit G**.



# INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

## INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

**Deputy Gregory Rodriguez** [REDACTED] was interviewed by Homicide Sergeant Schoonmaker and Detective O'Quinn on May 24, 2013. The interviews were audio recorded and transcribed as **Jobs #42334 and 42335**. See Transcriptions section for a verbatim copy of the interviews. See **Exhibit A, pages 28 and 29** for a summary of the interviews.

Deputy Rodriguez was interviewed by IAB Sergeant Watters and Lieutenant Carter on November 13, 2014. This interview was audio recorded and transcribed as **Job #43556**. See Transcriptions section for a verbatim copy of the interview.

Deputy Rodriguez was working a two-man patrol assignment with his [REDACTED] Deputy Strong, when he heard the Sheriff's Communication Center broadcast a call regarding shots fired in the area of San Luis Street and Bradfield Avenue. Deputy Rodriguez was not certain where they were when he heard the call, as he was still learning the area, but he knew they were southeast of the location. Deputies Strong and Rodriguez self-assigned their unit to assist on the call.

Deputy Strong drove west on Compton Boulevard and then north on Bradfield Avenue. Deputy Rodriguez broadcast they were [REDACTED] via the radio as they arrived in the area. This broadcast was made seconds prior to Deputy Rodriguez noticing Suspect Brown's vehicle, which he first saw turning from San Luis Street to north on Bradfield Avenue simultaneous to their turn north onto Bradfield Avenue. The vehicle was about one block away from them.

Deputy Rodriguez saw Suspect Brown's vehicle had tinted windows and made a "California stop" prior to turning onto Bradfield Avenue. Suspect Brown drove north for four to five seconds at about twenty to twenty-five miles per hour and then turned west on Palmer Street. Deputy Rodriguez described Suspect Brown's speed as normal, but said he made the turns quickly. Suspect Brown did not activate his turn signal prior to making the turn onto Palmer Street.

The deputies followed Suspect Brown west on Palmer Street for about three to four seconds. Suspect Brown stopped his vehicle and immediately exited with his upper body pulled forward in a manner similar to a person performing a crunch exercise movement. He hesitated for a moment with his hands in his waistband. Deputy Rodriguez did not see a gun but felt the suspect may have a firearm based on his actions. He ordered Suspect Brown to stop and drew his service weapon. Suspect Brown ran south to the walkway on the east side of the residence at [REDACTED] East Palmer Street. Deputy Rodriguez ran between the patrol car and Suspect Brown's car and

# INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

## INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

glanced inside the vehicle to ensure there were no other occupants. Deputy Rodriguez heard Deputy Strong broadcast [REDACTED] as they ran south after Suspect Brown.

Suspect Brown tried to scale a gate at the south end of the walkway as Deputies Strong and Rodriguez arrived at the northeast corner of the residence. The deputies were about eight to ten feet away from Suspect Brown when his attempt to scale the gate failed and he landed on his feet on the north side of the gate. Suspect Brown immediately turned to his left to face the deputies as he landed. He pointed a firearm at the deputies and Deputy Rodriguez fired one round at Suspect Brown in response to the threat. Deputy Rodriguez heard Deputy Strong fire his weapon, but he did not remember how many rounds Deputy Strong fired.

Suspect Brown dropped to his knees and Deputy Rodriguez ordered him to lay down and drop the gun. Suspect Brown leaned forward, then back, and finally went down on his side. The gun was on the ground near him. Deputy Strong broadcast radio traffic while Deputy Rodriguez detained Suspect Brown at gunpoint. He was relieved by an unknown deputy who informed Deputy Rodriguez that his left hand was bleeding. Deputy Rodriguez did not know how the injury to his hand occurred.

**IAB Note:** Deputy Rodriguez was shown a copy of two photographs of the residence at [REDACTED] East Palmer Street, two maps, and a crime scene sketch during his interview. See **Exhibit H**.

### EMPLOYEE WITNESS STATEMENT:

**Deputy [REDACTED]** responded to the scene after the shooting occurred. His actions are documented in a complaint report and supplemental report attached as **Exhibit A, pages 1-10**.

**Deputy Etinay Hernandez** responded to the scene after the shooting occurred. Her actions are documented in a complaint report and supplemental report attached as **Exhibit A, pages 1-10**.

**Deputy Ricardo Garcia Toscano** responded to the scene after the shooting occurred. His actions are documented in a complaint report and supplemental report attached as **Exhibit A, pages 11-12**.

# INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

## INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

### CIVILIAN WITNESS STATEMENT:

Witness [REDACTED] was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Sergeant Schoonmaker and Detective O Quinn on May 24, 2013. This interview was not recorded. See **Exhibit A, page 27-28** for a summary of this interview.

Witness [REDACTED] was interviewed by IAB Sergeants Watters and Hernandez on January 22, 2015. This interview was audio recorded and transcribed as **Job #44321**. See Transcriptions section for a verbatim copy of the interview.

Witness [REDACTED] was in the front room of her residence, located at [REDACTED] East Palmer Street, when she heard the sound of her [REDACTED] Suspect Brown's, vehicle traveling west on Palmer Street toward the cul-de-sac. She ran to the front yard and saw a patrol car follow Suspect Brown to the end of the street.

Witness [REDACTED] ran west on the south sidewalk. Suspect Brown exited the car immediately after he stopped and ran toward the houses on the south side of the street. Witness [REDACTED] did not see a firearm or believe he possessed a firearm. Suspect Brown ran south out of her view when she was in front of [REDACTED] East Palmer Street.

Witness [REDACTED] heard six gunshots. She could not see Suspect Brown at the time of the shooting and was prevented from going to his location by deputies.

**IAB Note:** Photographs were taken during the interview of Witness [REDACTED] by Internal Affairs Bureau, see **Exhibit I**. The photographs depict the following views:

IMG\_0056/IMG\_0057: Witness [REDACTED] position near the yellow vehicle in front of [REDACTED] East Palmer Street when she lost the view of Suspect Brown.

IMG\_0058/IMG\_0059: View from driveway at [REDACTED] East Palmer Street with Sergeant Hernandez standing in front of [REDACTED] East Palmer Street.

IMG\_0060: View from the north side of the gate where the shooting occurred.

IMG\_0061: View of the driveway of [REDACTED] East Palmer Street from the sidewalk.

# INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

## INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

**Witness** [REDACTED] was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Sergeant Schoonmaker and Detective O'Quinn on May 24, 2013. This interview was audio recorded and transcribed as **Job #42332**. See Transcriptions section for a verbatim copy of the interview. See **Exhibit A, page 28**, for a summary of the interview.

**Witness** [REDACTED] did not see the shooting occur.

**Witness** [REDACTED] was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Sergeant Schoonmaker and Detective O'Quinn on May 24, 2013. This interview was audio recorded and transcribed as **Job #42333**. See Transcriptions section for a verbatim copy of the interview. See **Exhibit A, page 31**, for a summary of the interview.

**Witness** [REDACTED] saw Suspect Brown exit his vehicle holding a gun near his waistband and run toward the side of a house on the south side of Palmer Street. He did not see the shooting.



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
BUREAU OF FRAUD AND CORRUPTION PROSECUTIONS  
JUSTICE SYSTEM INTEGRITY DIVISION**

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JACKIE LACEY o District Attorney  
SHARON J. MATSUMOTO o Chief Deputy District Attorney  
JOSEPH P. ESPOSITO o Assistant District Attorney

SCOTT K. GOODWIN o Director

July 16, 2014

Captain Duane Harris  
Homicide Bureau  
Los Angeles Sheriff's Department  
5747 Rickenbacker Road  
Commerce, California 90040

Re: J.S.I.D. File #13-0383  
LASD File #013-06654-2826-013

Dear Captain Harris:

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the May 23, 2013, fatal shooting of Rayshawn Brown by Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) Deputies Dru Strong and Gregory Rodriguez. It is our conclusion that Deputies Strong and Rodriguez acted in lawful self-defense.

The District Attorney's Command Center was notified of the shooting at 8:21 p.m., on May 23, 2013. The District Attorney Response Team (DART), comprised of Deputy District Attorney Kevin Stennis and District Attorney Senior Investigator Tanya Newton, responded and was given a briefing regarding the circumstances of the shooting and a walk-through of the scene.

The following analysis is based on investigative reports prepared by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, submitted to this office by Sergeant Brian Schoonmaker, LASD Homicide Bureau. Deputy Strong and Deputy Rodriguez' voluntary statements were considered as part of this analysis.

**FACTUAL ANALYSIS**

On May 23, 2013, at 7:25 p.m., LASD Compton Station Deputies Dru Strong and Gregory Rodriguez were working together in a marked patrol car. Strong and Rodriguez heard a broadcast over the Sheriff's radio of a shooting that occurred in the area of San Luis Street and Bradfield Avenue. The call reported five to six gunshots were heard. Strong and Rodriguez responded because they were in close proximity to the area of the call. Moments after the radio broadcast, they arrived to the area and immediately observed a black Pontiac (later determined to be driven by Rayshawn Brown) driving at a high rate of speed. The deputies followed Brown's

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car on Bradfield Avenue as Brown proceeded northbound at a high rate of speed. Brown turned westbound on Palmer Street, followed by Strong and Rodriguez who activated the patrol car's red lights to try to get Brown to stop. Brown ignored the patrol car's red lights and continued westbound on Palmer Street. Palmer Street ends at a westbound cul-de-sac which has a 50 foot cement wall that borders Abbey Memorial Park cemetery on the west side of the cement wall. Brown could not go any further on Palmer Street, so he stopped his car in the middle of the street at the west end of the cul-de-sac.

After stopping the Pontiac, Brown opened the driver's door and exited holding his right hand near his waistband. The deputies exited their car. Based on Brown's hand position, the deputies believed that he had a firearm. An [REDACTED] witness, [REDACTED] was standing in his front yard on Palmer Street. [REDACTED] saw Brown carrying a firearm as he ran from the Pontiac. Brown ran southbound into the front yard of [REDACTED] Palmer Street pursued by Strong and Rodriguez. As Brown got to the front yard of [REDACTED] Palmer Street, Strong yelled, "Stop running!"

Ignoring Strong's order, Brown ran eastbound to a north-south corridor of the east side of the home at [REDACTED] Palmer Street. The north-south corridor is bordered to the west by the home and to the east by a chain link fence. Brown turned southbound into the corridor and climbed onto a chain link gate that lead to the backyard of [REDACTED] Palmer Street. As Brown climbed the gate, Strong and Rodriguez entered the mouth of the corridor standing shoulder to shoulder. Brown was not able to climb over the unsteady gate but instead, fell backwards off the gate. After falling off the gate, Brown landed on his feet. Brown turned back towards the deputies, faced them and pointed a firearm directly at them. In fear that they were about to be shot, Strong fired his service weapon three times and Rodriguez fired his service weapon once at Brown. Brown collapsed to the ground with his firearm landing on the ground to his right side.

The deputies held Brown at gunpoint so they could safely recover his firearm from the ground.<sup>1</sup> Brown was still alive so the deputies moved him from the corridor to the front yard so he could get treatment from the responding paramedics. Brown was transported to Saint Francis Hospital for treatment of his wounds but was pronounced dead at 8:54 p.m. by Doctor Reginald Jones.

An autopsy was performed by Los Angeles County Deputy Medical Examiner Ogbonna Chinwah on June 3, 2013. Doctor Chinwah determined Brown suffered a gunshot wound to his left chest, a gunshot wound to his upper left abdomen, a gunshot wound to his left groin and a gunshot wound to the back of his left hand.

#### Statement of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed the night of the incident [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] said on the night of the incident, he was standing in his front yard on Palmer Street.

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<sup>1</sup> The firearm that Brown possessed was a "Hi-Point", model CF380 caliber serial [REDACTED] with an empty magazine

█████ saw the suspect get out of the car with a gun in his hand. █████ said the suspect was holding the gun near the front of his waistband area or near his belt. █████ saw the suspect run from his car towards the side of a house located on the south side of the street. After that, █████ did not see anything else because his █████ pulled him into the house.

Statement of █████

█████ was interviewed on May 23, 2013, at 11:50 p.m. █████ said she was the mother of Rayshawn Brown. █████ said she was at the intersection of Bradfield Avenue and San Marcus Street when she saw Brown driving his black Pontiac at a high rate of speed followed by a patrol car. █████ said she did not see the shooting on Palmer Street.

Statement of █████

█████ told the detectives she is the mother of Rayshawn Brown. She said she was in the front yard of her residence on Palmer Street when the shooting occurred. █████ saw the black Pontiac driven by Brown travel westbound at a high rate of speed followed by the patrol car. Both Brown's car and the patrol car ended up at the end of the cul-de-sac on Palmer Street. █████ saw Brown exit his car and run into the yard of the house on the end of the cul-de-sac. █████ said Brown was not armed with a firearm and the deputies chased him and shot him for no reason. The investigators asked █████ to show them exactly where she was standing when she saw the shooting. █████ took them to a place in her front yard and said that was the place she was standing when she observed the shooting. The investigators noted that █████ residence was six houses east of where the shooting occurred on the same side of the street. The investigators noted that due to the distance, trees, shrubs, parked cars and houses in between █████ location and the location of the shooting, it would have been impossible for █████ to visually observe the shooting or determine if Brown was or was not in possession of a firearm. Photographs were taken of █████ location to demonstrate the view she had towards the shooting location.

Statement of Deputy Gregory Rodriguez

Deputy Rodriguez was working with Deputy Strong on the night of the incident. Strong was driving and Rodriguez was the passenger. At 7:25 p.m., they heard a radio call of, "Illegal shooting, 5-6 gunshots in the area of San Luis Street and Bradfield Avenue."

Rodriguez and Strong were in the area and responded to assist the call. When they arrived, they saw Brown driving at a high rate of speed. They followed behind Brown who appeared to be trying to evade the deputies. Brown quickly traveled northbound on Bradfield Avenue then turned westbound on Palmer Street, followed by Strong and Rodriguez. Strong activated the red lights to stop Brown, however, Brown continued westbound on Palmer Street. Brown was forced to stop his car at the westbound dead end of the cul-de-sac.

Brown exited the driver's door holding his right hand near his waistband. The deputies exited their car and Rodriguez pointed his gun at Brown believing Brown's hand position meant he had a gun in his waistband. Brown ran south into the front yard of [REDACTED] Palmer Street pursued by Strong and Rodriguez. Brown ran down a corridor of the east side of the property between the house and a chain link fence. Brown then tried to scale a chain link gate that lead to the backyard of the home. Strong and Rodriguez entered the mouth of the corridor standing shoulder to shoulder, Rodriguez on the right and Strong on the left.

Brown fell back off the fence and landed on his feet. Brown turned around and pointed a black firearm at Rodriguez and Strong. Rodriguez said it was still sunlight and he could clearly see the barrel of the gun pointed at him. In fear for his life and the life of his partner, Rodriguez fired one round at Brown. Rodriguez heard Strong fire at least one shot. Rodriguez said Strong could have fired more shots but he was not positive. Brown dropped to the ground and Rodriguez waited for the arrival of the paramedics and other units.

#### **Statement of Deputy Dru Strong**

Upon arriving to the area of the shooting call, Strong saw Brown's car traveling in the same area of the call. Strong believed Brown's car could be related to the shooting call. Strong followed Brown westbound on Palmer Street. Strong activated his red lights, however Brown continued driving until he reached the dead end of the cul-de-sac. Brown opened his driver's door and ran with his hand in front of his waistband. As Brown got to the front yard of [REDACTED] Palmer Street, Strong yelled at him, "Stop running!" Strong and Rodriguez chased Brown as Brown ran to a corridor leading to the back yard of that residence. Brown tried to climb a chain link fence leading to the backyard but fell back onto his feet.

As Brown turned to face the deputies, Strong saw a gun in Brown's hand. Strong became concerned that Brown was trying to kill him. As a result of Strong's fear, he fired his service weapon three times at Brown. Brown fell to the ground and the firearm that Brown had been holding was now on the ground next to Brown's right side. Strong and Rodriguez approached Brown at gunpoint and retrieved the firearm from the ground.

#### **LEGAL ANALYSIS**

California law permits the use of deadly force in self-defense or in the defense of others if it reasonably appears to the person claiming the right of self-defense or the defense of others that he actually and reasonably believed that he or others were in imminent danger of great bodily injury or death. Penal Code § 197; *People v. Randle* (2005) 35 Cal.4th 987, 994 (overruled on another ground in *People v. Chun* (2009) 45 Cal.4th 1172, 1201); *People v. Humphrey* (1996) 13 Cal.4th 1073, 1082; *see also*, CALCRIM No. 505.



In protecting himself or another, a person may use all force which he believes reasonably necessary and which would appear to a reasonable person, in the same or similar circumstances, to be necessary to prevent the injury which appears to be imminent. CALCRIM No. 3470. If the person's beliefs were reasonable, the danger does not need to have actually existed. *Id.*

"When the peril is swift and imminent and the necessity for action immediate, the law does not weigh in too nice scales the conduct of the assailed and say he shall not be justified in killing because he might have resorted to other means to secure his safety." *People v. Collins* (1961) 189 Cal.App.2d 575, 589.

"The 'reasonableness' of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than the 20/20 vision of hindsight. . . . The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments – in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving – about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation." *Graham v. Conner* (1989) 490 U.S. 386, 396-397.

## CONCLUSION

The evidence examined in this investigation shows that Deputies Strong and Rodriguez believed Rayshawn Brown was leaving the scene of a reported shooting and had possibly been involved in the shooting. The deputies followed Brown as he tried to evade them. Witnesses, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both confirmed that Brown was traveling at a high rate of speed followed by the patrol car. After Brown's car turned quickly onto Palmer Street, the deputies activated their red lights in an attempt to get Brown to stop his car. Brown ignored the red lights and continued until he reached a dead end on Palmer Street. Brown exited his car and ran to the front yard of a home carrying a firearm. Brown ignored the deputies' orders to stop and tried to climb into the backyard of the home. Unable to climb the fence, Brown turned and faced the deputies as he pointed his firearm at the deputies. In fear that they were about to be shot, Deputy Rodriguez fired one round and Deputy Strong fired three rounds ending the threat.

Captain Harris  
July 16, 2014  
Page 6 of 6

Given the rapidly evolving, life threatening situation that confronted Deputies Rodriguez and Strong, we conclude that they both acted lawfully in self-defense. We are therefore closing our file and will take no further action in this matter.

Very truly yours,

JACKIE LACEY  
District Attorney

By

  
KEVIN STENNIS  
Deputy District Attorney  
[REDACTED]

c: Deputy Dru Strong [REDACTED]  
Deputy Gregory Rodriguez [REDACTED]

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**  
*"A Tradition of Service"*

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: April 13, 2015

FROM:  STEPHEN B. JOHNSON, COMMANDER TO: MYRON JOHNSON, CAPTAIN  
CENTRAL PATROL DIVISION COMPTON STATION

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE FINDINGS

Case Number: SH2335077  
Incident: Hit Shooting  
Incident Date: May 23, 2013  
Unit: Compton Station  
Suspect: Brown, Rashawn MB/11/02/85  
Involved Employees: Deputy Dru Strong # [REDACTED]  
Deputy Gregory Rodriguez # [REDACTED]  
EFRC Date: April 9, 2015

The Executive Force Review Committee (EFRC) consisting of Commanders Stephen Johnson, David Halm, and Patrick Maxwell met and reviewed the above case.

**FINDINGS:**

The EFRC determined the force and tactics used against the suspect were within Department policy.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The EFRC recommended Unit Commander of Compton Station, Captain Myron Johnson, re-brief field personnel on the use containment procedures when chasing armed suspects.

SBJ:JRB:jrb